

1960 Census of Population

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

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SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1960

(The tables presented here are preprints of tables 73, 75, and 76 from Final Report PC(1)-1C, which is scheduled to be published in approximately one month and which will contain additional summary information on the general social and economic characteristics of the population)

This report presents statistics from the 1960 Census of Population on the school enrollment and educational attainment of the inhabitants of the United States. Tables 73 and 75 present statistics on school enrollment for the population by age, level of schooling (kindergarten, elementary, high school, and college), type of school (public vs. private), and color; these data are shown for the United States as a whole and for its urban and rural parts. The educational attainment of the population 25 years old and over, by color and sex, is shown in table 76 for the United States, urban and rural, 1960 and 1950, and for conterminous United States, 1940 to 1960.

There were nearly 44 million persons 5 to 34 years old enrolled in regular public and private schools and colleges in the United States in 1960. Of these, 42.7 million were persons 5 to 24 years old, about 13.5 million more than in 1950. The percent of persons enrolled in school increased in all age groups through age 21 between 1950 and 1960. The most dramatic increases in percentages enrolled were at ages 5 and 6, when children are beginning school, and at ages 16 to 19, when youths are completing high school and beginning college.

Enrollment patterns differed in urban and rural areas. Fifty-seven out of 100 rural youths 16 to 19 years old were enrolled in 1960 as compared with 47 out of 100 in 1950. Though the enrollment rate for urban areas exceeded that for rural areas in both 1960 and 1950, the change in the rate for urban youths in the same age group between these dates was not as great as that for rural youths; 63 out of 100 urban youths were enrolled in 1960 in comparison with 58 out of 100 in 1950. The comparative data at ages 18 and over for urban and rural youths are affected somewhat by the practice in the census of counting unmarried college students where they live while attending college. Since most of the colleges are located in urban areas, some unmarried college students whose parental homes are in rural areas are counted in urban areas in the census.

Of the 44 million persons 5 to 34 years old shown by the census as enrolled in school, 2.1 million were in kindergarten, 29.0 million in elementary school (grades 1 to 8), 9.7 million in high school (grades 9 to 12), and 2.9 million in colleges and universities. About 86 percent of the combined kindergarten, elementary, and high school enrollment was in public schools. School enrollment data by



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Luther H. Hodges, *Secretary*
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, Richard M. Scammon, *Director*

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Commerce Field Offices, 10 cents.*



color, for the several levels and types of school, indicate that of the total white population 5 to 34 years old enrolled in schools, 1.9 million were enrolled in kindergarten, 25.0 million were in elementary school, 8.6 million were in high school, and 2.7 million were in colleges and universities. Of the nonwhites, 223,000 were enrolled in kindergarten, 4.0 million were enrolled in elementary school, 1.1 million were in high school, and 192,000 were in colleges and universities.

The educational status of the population 25 years old and over in the United States improved considerably between 1940 and 1960, especially during the 1950's. The median number of school years completed, as shown by the 1940 and 1960 Censuses, increased from 8.6 to 10.6 during the twenty-year period. In 1960, as in past censuses, the median number of years of school completed for these adults was higher for females than males (10.9 vs. 10.3), higher for whites than nonwhites (10.9 vs. 8.2), and higher for urban persons than persons in rural areas (11.1 vs. 9.2). The percentage of adults who had no years of school completed declined from 3.7 in 1940 to 2.3 in 1960. There were pronounced increases in the percentages of persons 25 years old and over who were high school and college graduates. In 1940, 24 percent of these adults were high school graduates and 5 percent were college graduates as compared with 41 percent who had completed four or more years of high school and 8 percent who had completed four or more years of college in 1960.

All of the statistics for 1960 in this report were obtained from a 25-percent sample. There may be differences between comparable distributions in this report and in other reports of the 1960 Census of Population because of sampling variability or errors in processing. More complete definitions of the terms used in this report, explanations of collection and processing procedures, and a statement on sampling variability may be found in the introduction to any of the reports in the PC(1)-C series.

School enrollment and educational attainment statistics for 1950 were obtained from a 20-percent sample. Statistics from the 1940 Census are based on 100-percent counts.

The term "United States" refers to the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The term "conterminous United States" refers to the United States exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii.

Statistics similar to those shown for the United States in this report are shown annually in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, based on data collected by the Bureau of the Census in the Current Population Survey.

An outline of the publication program for the 1960 Census of Population may be obtained free of charge from the Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D.C., or any U.S. Department of Commerce field office.